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Application No.: 10/824,385

Attorney Docket No.: 20402-00621-US1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1-34 (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A pneumatic tool comprising a circular cylinder, a piston slidably accommodated in said circular cylinder, a driver blade integrally formed with said piston, and a sleeve valve portion for driving said piston when compression air is discharged from a sleeve valve chamber via a trigger valve portion, wherein  
said trigger valve portion further comprising:

a plunger shifting in response to a trigger operation by a user;  
a valve piston slidably supporting said plunger and shifting in a direction opposed to a shifting direction of said plunger; and

a valve bush slidably supporting said plunger and said valve piston so as to allow slide movements of said plunger and said valve piston, and

a seal member provided on a first surface formed on one of said valve piston and said plunger; and

~~combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface formed on the other one of said valve piston and said plunger~~ combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface formed on another one of said valve piston and said plunger, said grooves and ridges being alternately arranged along a circumferential direction of the other one of said valve piston and said plunger, said second surface opposing to said first surface,

~~wherein said ridges slidably hold said seal member~~ said ridges hold said seal member and prevent said seal member from being pulled off from the first surface formed on said one of said valve piston and said plunger and at the same time said grooves cooperatively define an air passage between said valve piston and said plunger.

Application No.: 10/824,385

Attorney Docket No.: 20402-00621-US1

36. (Currently amended) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 35, wherein said ridges cooperatively define an effective diameter of a guide along which said seal member is guided, and said grooves define an effective area of ~~a relief passage of said compression air~~ a relief passage of compression air of a valve piston chamber in which said plunger is accommodated.

37. (Previously presented) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 35, wherein said grooves and ridges are arranged alternately and extend in an axial direction of said plunger.

38. (Currently amended) A pneumatic tool comprising a circular cylinder, a piston slidably accommodated in said circular cylinder, a driver blade integrally formed with said piston, and a sleeve valve portion for driving said piston when compression air is discharged from a sleeve valve chamber via a trigger valve portion, wherein  
said trigger valve portion further comprising:

a plunger shifting in response to a trigger operation by a user;

a valve piston slidably supporting said plunger and shifting in a direction opposed to a shifting direction of said plunger; and

a valve bush slidably supporting said plunger and said valve piston so as to allow slide movements of said plunger and said valve piston;

a seal member provided on a first surface formed on either said valve bush or one of said plunger and said valve piston ; and

~~combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface formed on the other one of said valve bush or said one of said plunger and said valve piston combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface formed on another one of said valve bush and said one of said plunger and said valve piston, said grooves and ridges being alternately arranged along a circumferential direction of the other one of said valve bush and said one of said plunger and said valve piston,~~  
said second surface opposing to said first surface,

Application No.: 10/824,385

Attorney Docket No.: 20402-00621-US1

wherein said ridges slidably hold said seal member said ridges hold said seal member and prevent said seal member from being pulled off from the first surface formed on either said valve bush or said one of said plunger and said valve piston and at the same time said grooves cooperatively define an air passage between said valve piston and said plunger an air passage between said first surface and said second surface.

39. (Currently amended) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 38, wherein said ridges cooperatively define an effective diameter of a guide along which said seal member is guided, and said grooves define an effective area of a relief passage of said compression air a relief passage of compression air of a valve piston chamber 3.n which said plunger is accommodated.

40. (Previously presented) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 38, wherein said grooves and ridges are arranged alternately and extend in an axial direction of said plunger.

41. (Currently amended) A pneumatic tool comprising a circular cylinder, a piston slidably accommodated in said circular cylinder, a driver blade integrally formed with said piston, and a sleeve valve portion for driving said piston when compression air is discharged from a sleeve valve chamber via a trigger valve portion,

wherein

said trigger valve portion further comprises:

a plunger shifting in response to a trigger operation by a user;

a valve piston slidably supporting said plunger;

a valve bush slidably supporting said plunger and said valve piston;

a seal member provided on a first surface formed on at least one of said plunger, said valve piston, and said valve bush; and

combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface opposing to said first surface, said second surface being formed on one of said plunger, said valve piston, and said valve bush  
combined grooves and ridges formed on a second surface opposing to said first surface, said second surface being formed on a second one of said plunger, said valve piston and said valve

Application No.: 10/824,385

Attorney Docket No.: 20402-00621-US1

bush, said grooves and ridges being alternately arranged along a circumferential direction of the second one of said plunger, said valve piston and said valve bush;

wherein said ridges slidably hold said seal member said ridges hold said seal member and prevent said seal member from being pulled off from the first surface formed on the at least one of said plunger, said valve piston and said valve bush and at the same time said grooves cooperatively define an air passage between said first surface and said second surface.

42. (Currently amended) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 41, wherein said ridges cooperatively define an effective diameter of a guide along which said seal member is guided, and said grooves define an effective area of a relief passage of said compression air a relief passage of compression air of a valve piston chamber in which said plunger is accommodated.

43. (Previously presented) The pneumatic tool in accordance with claim 41, wherein said grooves and ridges are arranged alternately and extend in an axial direction of said plunger.